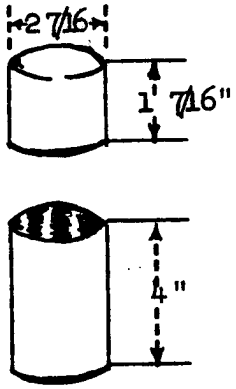
~~SECRET~~ CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT ON SOVIET CONCEALMENT DEVICE

On 5 March 1954, a tin can with a protective covering was dug up at [redacted]. The can served as a Soviet burial container for the contents consisting of ¥ 120,000 in ¥ 1000 notes. A detailed breakdown of the unit follows: 25X1

Material and Fabrication: The material used is .014 inch gauge tin, cylindrically rolled and soldered longitudinally. The can was not drawn; rather each end is a separate piece of tin soldered to the cylindrical section.

Dimensions: Dimensions of the can are as shown in the accompanying sketch:



Can Closure: The can is closed by merely pushing the cover down over the main cylindrical section with a friction fit of $1\frac{1}{4}$" overlap.

Exterior Surface: The can is covered with green paint, mostly intact and in good condition except for the region of the friction closure where the paint has been scratched and chipped off. An Oriental floral design appears on the side of the can and is completely legible.

Interior Surface: By and large the tin is still bright with a few rust spots, mostly in the cover and the region of the friction closure.

Contents Wrapping: The notes were rolled into a bundle and wrapped with kraft paper which was in turn enclosed in cellophane. See. Figure 1. 25X1

25X1

~~SECRET~~ CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Can Covering: Black friction tape was wound over the entire outer surface of the container which was then coated with a tar or creosote compound of some sort. This in turn was covered with earth while still damp. See figure 2.

Duration of Burial: Consideration of the nature of the contents indicate that the cash may have been buried for better than three years.

Observations: In light of the relatively crude preserving methods and packaging employed, the container was judged to be in excellent condition. The cash was removed before the item was received by this office, and so its condition could not be observed firsthand. Since it was apparently completely legible when first inspected, plus the fact that the kraft paper and cellophane wrappings (which were enclosed) were in a good state of preservation and suffered no detrimental effects due to dampness or other foreign elements, it may be concluded that this manner of packaging was entirely adequate for the prevalent conditions.

It must be borne in mind that the nature of the local environment in which the can was buried is not known. Had it been buried under soil conditions of a more severe nature, e.g., greater dampness, acidity, etc., the protective covering may have failed.

Conclusions: The simple friction tape and tar covering provided a surprisingly good barrier against corrosive and penetrating action. Advantages of such a simple method are obvious. It is economical, the material used is readily available and easily procured, and it is readily adapted for field use.

Attachments:

[redacted] 25X1

Fig. # [redacted] showing wrappings of contents and can interior.
Fig. # 2 showing external can covering.

DD/P/TSS/MD/HWBabcock:tu
11 August 1954

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

TSS/Mechanical Division

interesting! Good report.

2

SECRET CONFIDENTIAL

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2